WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing audible representation of a data set,

5 comprising:

reading said data set, wherein said data set contains an

arbitrary non-musical representation of data;

selecting musical parameters for mapping said data set to

an audio output;

10   analyzing said data set to select values of musical

elements for playing via said audio output; and

generating a representation of said audio output for

playing said musical elements in sequence.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said analyzing determines

statistics of said data set, whereby ranges of said audio

elements are selected in conformity with said statistics.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said analyzing determines

20 statistics of said data set, whereby values of said audio

elements are selected in conformity with said statistics.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said analyzing determines deviations of data values of said data set from said statistics, whereby said audio elements are selected in conformity with said deviations.

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5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said generating generates a musical output having statistically determined variations, and wherein of said variations are controlled by statistics of said data set.

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6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said reading reads a data set containing financial data.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said reading reads multiple

15 data sets, said analyzing is performed for each of said multiple data sets, and wherein said generating generates audio outputs having multiple distinct timbres each assigned to one of said multiple data sets.

20 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said reading reads multiple data sets, said analyzing is performed for each of said multiple data sets, and wherein said analyzing selects said audio elements in conformity with differences between said data sets.

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9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said analyzing selects said audio elements in conformity with differences between statistics of said data sets.

10. A computer system for generating an audio output from an arbitrary data set, comprising:

a memory for storing program instructions and data;

a processor coupled to said memory for executing said

5 program instructions; and

an audio output device coupled to said processor for generating audible sound, wherein said program instructions include instructions for:

reading said data set, wherein said data set contains an

10 arbitrary non-musical representation of data,

selecting musical parameters for mapping said data set to an audio output,

analyzing said data set to determine values of musical elements for playing via said audio output, and

15 generating a representation of said audio output for playing said musical elements in sequence.

11. The computer system of Claim 10, wherein said program instructions for analyzing determine statistics of said data

20 set, whereby ranges of said audio elements are determined in conformity with said statistics.

12. The computer system of Claim 10, wherein said program instructions for analyzing determine statistics of said data set, whereby values of said audio elements are selected in conformity with said statistics.

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13. The computer system of Claim 12, wherein said program instructions for analyzing determine deviations of data values of said data set from said statistics, whereby said audio elements are selected in conformity with said deviations.

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14. The computer system of Claim 10, wherein said program instructions generating generate a musical output having statistically determined variations, and wherein of said variations are controlled by statistics of said data set.

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15. The computer system of Claim 10, wherein said program instructions for reading read a data set containing financial data.

16. The computer system of Claim 10, wherein said program instructions for reading read multiple data sets, said program instructions for analyzing analyze each of said multiple data sets, and wherein said program instructions for generating

5   generate audio outputs having multiple distinct timbres each assigned to one of said multiple data sets.

17. The computer system of Claim 10, wherein said program instructions for reading read multiple data sets, said program

10   instructions for analyzing analyze each of said multiple data sets, and wherein said program instructions for analyzing select said audio elements in conformity with differences between said data sets.

15   18. The computer system of Claim 17, wherein said program instructions for analyzing select said audio elements in conformity with differences between statistics of said data sets.

19. A computer program product for generating an audio output from an arbitrary data set, said computer program product comprising signal-bearing media containing program instructions for execution within a general purpose computer, wherein said

5   program instructions comprise program instructions for:

reading said data set, wherein said data set contains an arbitrary non-musical representation of data,

selecting musical parameters for mapping said data set to an audio output,

10   analyzing said data set to determine values of musical elements for playing via said audio output, and

generating a representation of said audio output for playing said musical elements in sequence.

15   20. The computer program product of Claim 19, wherein said program instructions for analyzing determine statistics of said data set, whereby ranges of said audio elements are determined in conformity with said statistics.

21. The computer program product of Claim 19, wherein said program instructions for analyzing determine statistics of said data set, whereby values of said audio elements are selected in conformity with said statistics.

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22. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein said program instructions for analyzing determine deviations of data values of said data set from said statistics, whereby said audio elements are selected in conformity with said deviations.

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23. The computer program product of Claim 19, wherein said program instructions generating generate a musical output having statistically determined variations, and wherein of said variations are controlled by statistics of said data set.

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24. The computer program product of Claim 19, wherein said program instructions for reading read a data set containing financial data.

25. The computer program product of Claim 19, wherein said program instructions for reading read multiple data sets, said program instructions for analyzing analyze each of said multiple data sets, and wherein said program instructions for generating

5   generate audio outputs having multiple distinct timbres each assigned to one of said multiple data sets.

26. The computer program product of Claim 19, wherein said program instructions for reading read multiple data sets, said

10   program instructions for analyzing analyze each of said multiple data sets, and wherein said program instructions for analyzing select said audio elements in conformity with differences between said data sets.

15   27. The computer program product of Claim 26, wherein said program instructions for analyzing select said audio elements in conformity with differences between statistics of said data sets.